

THE GREEN BOOK

BY MUAMMAR AL QADHAFI

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The solution of the
problem of Democracy

PART 2

The solution of the
Economic Problem

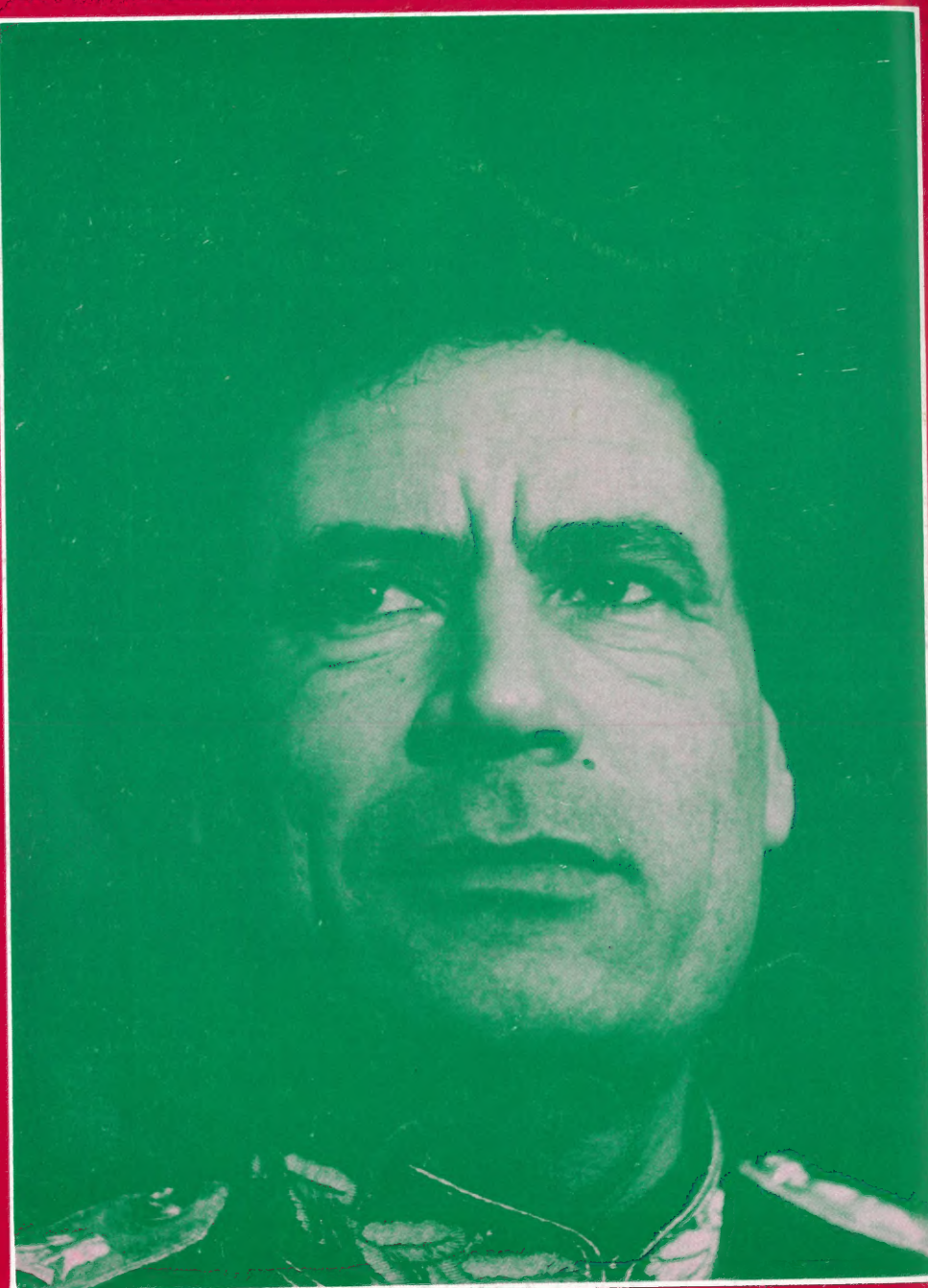
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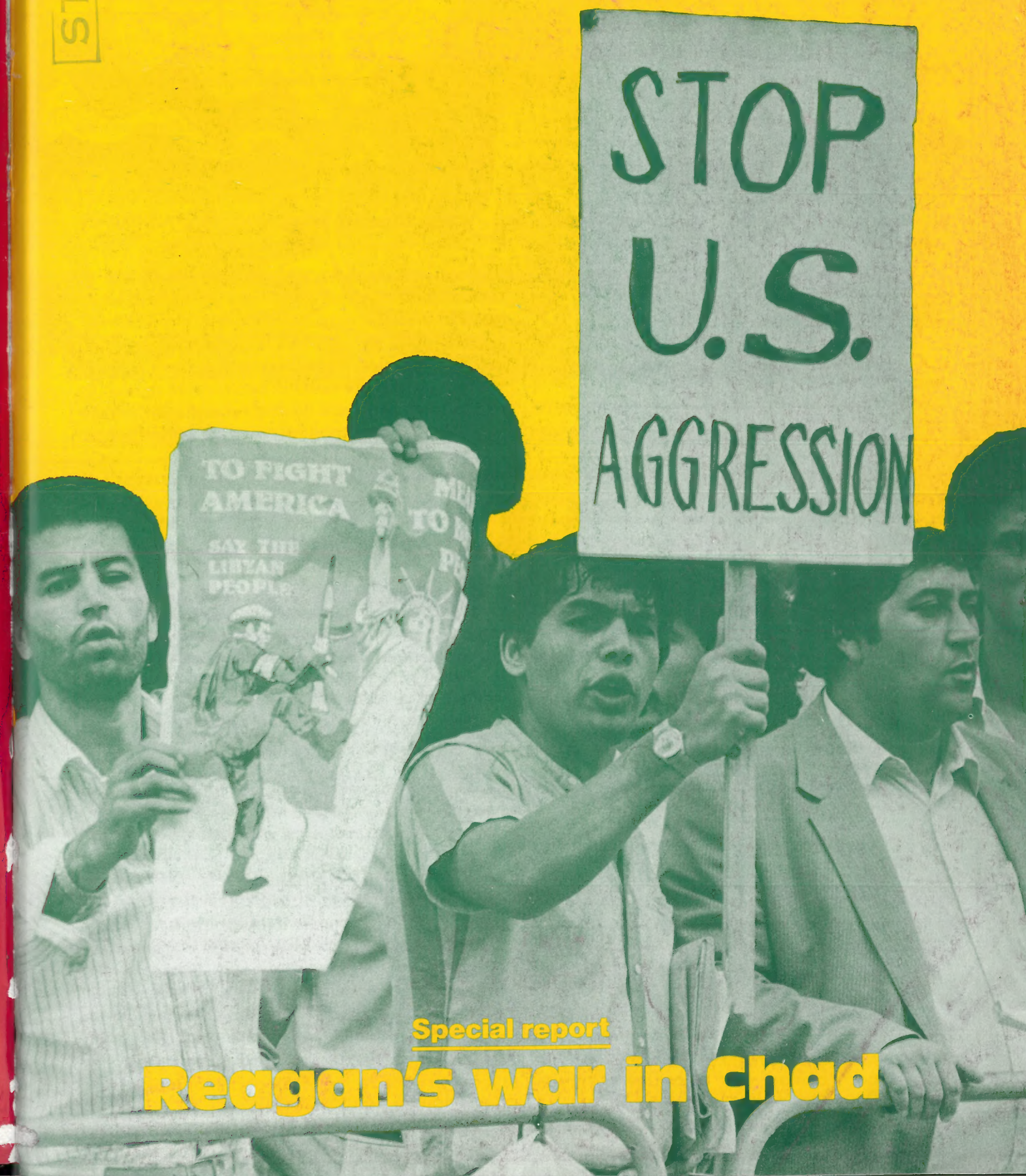
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Inside:
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Special report

Reagan's war in Chad



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jamahiriya review

AUGUST 1983 No 39

□ **QADHAFI INTERVIEW:** 'Africa is for the Africans, as Europe is for the Europeans.' This is the view expressed by the Libyan leader Muammer Qadhafi in a wide-ranging interview with the French daily Le Monde, in which he stressed the need to end all foreign intervention in Chad. The Jamahiriya, he emphasised, is committed to backing the legitimate government in Chad, headed by Goukouni Oueddei, against whom stands the United States and a host of local surrogate regimes. Extracts from this important interview appear on page 9.

□ **COLONIALISTS IN AFRICA:** Hissene Habre's claim to head the government in Chad depends on the support he has acquired from a host of foreign powers and mercenaries a report on page 15 reveals. A special correspondent reviews the scale of foreign intervention in Chad and dismisses claims that Libya is involved directly in the conflict raging across its southern borders.

In a separate report Jon Bearman examines the scale of foreign intervention in Africa, and looks at the activities of the Americans, French, Israelis and South Africans which threaten a far-reaching destabilisation of the continent. See page 13.

□ **UNITY PROGRESS:** The United States is having little success in its efforts to isolate and destabilise the Libyan Jamahiriya, as recent events bear witness. Muammer Qadhafi's initiatives to boost closer co-operation with the Jamahiriya's Arab neighbours are meeting with success, notably in the country's relations with Tunisia, together with the other Maghreb states of Algeria and Morocco. A special report on recent developments in Libya's quest for regional unity appear on pages 11 and 12.

□ **ARTS AND CULTURE:** A playwright, a cartoonist and a short-story author are amongst three Libyan personalities from the arts who have been in the news recently. Robert Miller reports on the works of Selimane al Tarhouney, Muhammad az Zawawi and Ibrahim al Kouni, whose talents are attracting increasing international attention. See page 16.

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Reagan on the Rampage

RONALD REAGAN'S arrival in the White House in January 1981 was greeted with deep apprehension by progressive peoples throughout the world. It was widely feared that Reagan's verbal bellicosity towards them would be translated into concrete acts which would bring a dangerous period of international tension and instability.

These fears have since been borne out, but never so convincingly as in the past month. In a matter of days, the White House has set the stage for an American invasion of Nicaragua; it has moved further towards direct military action against the Libyan Jamahiriya; it has engaged in dangerous sabre-rattling in the Arabian Gulf and Indian Ocean; it has stepped up preparations for massive military 'manoeuvres' in the Arab homeland; and it has sent provocative naval forces to the coasts of the Soviet Union.

Obsessed by what he claims to be a 'Communist threat' in Central America, Ronald Reagan despatched a US battle fleet to cruise off the Nicaraguan coast. Headed by the aircraft carrier 'Ranger', the task force includes seven other ships, including a cruiser and three destroyers. At the same time, Washington announced that American forces would be staging protracted 'military exercises' in Nicaragua's neighbour, Honduras.

Washington's objective is crystal clear. As *Newsweek* said on 1st August: 'The President denied that he was out to impress the leftist Sandinista government in Managua with gunboat diplomacy — but it was hard to see what else his show of force could be called.'

Following new victories by Iran in the Gulf War last month, Ronald Reagan ordered his forces in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Gulf onto full alert. The move was lamely justified by claims that it was a demonstration of America's commitment to 'freedom of navigation' in the Gulf.

This month, meanwhile, thousands of American troops, backed by naval and air forces, will take part in major 'manoeuvres' in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman. The forces belong to the Central Command, the new name for the Rapid Deployment Force, which was created to protect US interests and American surrogate regimes in the Arab homeland.

Last month, the Soviet Union revealed that it too had become a target for Reagan's gunboat diplomacy. Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov disclosed that there were no less than thirteen US aircraft carriers with 520 nuclear-capable jets on board off the Soviet Union's coasts.

In Central America, it is the Nicaraguan Revolution which Reagan has singled out for attack. In the Arab region it is Libya's Al Fateh Revolution. In Central America, Reagan is preparing to use American ground forces to strike at Nicaragua by land through Honduras, with support from the offshore fleets. Reagan is moving in a parallel fashion against the Jamahiriya. The US objective is for the forces of the Hissene Habre regime in Chad to advance into Libya from the south, in co-ordination with action from the American Sixth Fleet cruising offshore.

In recent weeks the Sixth Fleet has stepped up its provocative manoeuvres off the Libyan coast, and in early August it was reported that the aircraft carrier 'Eisenhower' had been placed on alert status in response to allegations of Libyan military involvement in the Chadian conflict.

The existence of a plan for a pincer attack against the Jamahiriya was confirmed last month when the London *Times* disclosed that the first group of men out of the first US Air Force transport plane delivering arms to the Habre regime in N'Djamena had set up a command post to communicate by satellite with the Sixth Fleet.

Amid this flurry of US military escalation, it is timely to recall the salient features of Libyan policy towards the Chadian conflict. From the start, the Jamahiriya has refrained from any military intervention on the side of Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, insisting that the conflict was a civil war, an internal affair which should be settled without resort to outside intervention.

Hissene Habre and his US masters responded, however, by calling in Zairean military forces, European mercenaries, and units from Egypt and Sudan. France and the US have launched major airlifts of military equipment.

Indirectly, Habre has also called in the Zionist state. Israel has a comprehensive military co-operation agreement with Zaire, and the Zairean contingent in Chad is Israeli-trained.

The pretext for all this foreign intervention has been allegations of Libyan military involvement in Chad. In a bid to establish the truth, Tripoli and the Government of Unity and National Transition (GUNT) headed by Goukouni Oueddei called on the OAU to send a fact-finding mission to the war zone. The proposal was flatly rejected by Habre.

The Jamahiriya and GUNT both welcomed last month's OAU declaration calling for a peaceful resolution of the civil war, without external intervention. Hissene Habre rejected the proposal outright.

Contrary to allegations from Washington, the Jamahiriya has acted with remarkable restraint. Tripoli harbours no territorial designs against Chad. The Habre regime, by contrast, has lodged a demand for the annexation of a vast area of southern Libya. Should the Habre regime, bolstered by foreign forces, defeat the government forces of President Oueddei, then the next step could be an outright invasion of Libya.

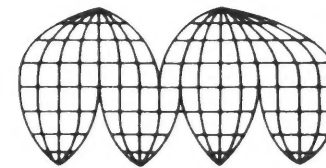
President Reagan, on a global scale, and the US surrogate Habre, on a regional level, have turned logic on its head. Aggressors are presented as the victims of aggression; peace-loving countries as warmongers and subversives.

What is so terrifying about Ronald Reagan's bellicose despatch of US forces to far-flung corners of the globe is that it has amplified immeasurably the scope for new wars, and an escalation of existing conflicts. It may be that Washington's military adventures are designed merely as shows of force. Even if that is true, however, such massive military units cannot operate on a war footing without a serious risk of accidental confrontations.

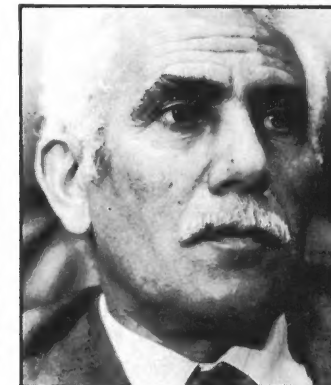
The pattern has already been set. In a repetition of earlier incidents, two US Navy fighter aircraft from the 'Eisenhower' on 1st August had a head-on encounter with two Libyan MiG 23 fighters over the Gulf of Sirte. No shots were fired, but it can only a matter of time before US forces provoke an aerial battle with Libyan defenders which might lead to a wider war between America and the Jamahiriya.

Amid this dangerous escalation of worldwide US military intervention, it is sobering to recall that one of the Hollywood movies in which Ronald Reagan starred was entitled 'Accidents will happen'.

A monthly
review of
Libyan, Islamic
and Third World
affairs



PANORAMA
news review



Left to right: Muammar Qadhafi, President Bourguiba of Tunisia, King Hassan of Morocco and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria

Integration moves with Tunisia

THE LATEST sign of the efforts under way between the Jamahiriya and its neighbour, Tunisia, to integrate their domestic policies came on 10th July when the Tunisian Minister of Information met in Tunis with the Assistant Secretary of the Jamahiriya's Administrative Committee for Revolutionary Information. At the centre of their talks were means to promote cultural relations between the Libyan and Tunisian peoples, particularly in the field of information.

Earlier, on 7th July, Tunis radio announced that Libyan and Tunisian delegations had met at the Tunisian Ministry of Education for a joint working session to discuss co-operation in information. The radio said that the session came 'within the framework of a series of regular preparatory meetings for the meeting of the Joint Committee of Co-operation between the two countries.'

This latter committee was set up last year following a visit to Tunisia by Muammar Qadhafi, and is charged with examining concrete ways in which the two countries' policies can be co-ordinated, with a view to an eventual full merger between Libya and Tunisia. In July 1982 plans were announced for a joint meeting of the Jamahiriya's General People's Committee and the Tunisian Cabinet, aimed at furthering the unification process.

US exercises condemned

UNITED STATES military exercises in Africa and the Arab homeland planned for this month have been firmly condemned by

progressive countries as a blatant attempt by the Reagan administration to advance American interests by interfering in the internal affairs of the region.

The exercises, involving forces from the US Central Command, will take place in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Oman. The Central Command is the new name, dating from January this year, for the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF). The RDF was set up in 1980, ostensibly to counter the alleged 'Soviet threat' to the Arabian Gulf oilfields. Its real mission, however, is to guard US interests in the Arab region, and to prop up US-backed regimes threatened with domestic rebellion.

In a commentary on 7th July the Jamahiriya news agency JANA condemned the planned military manoeuvres as being 'in the nature of an aggression', saying that they involved 'strategic expansionist objectives'. It was impossible to take seriously the pretext that the exercises were merely for training. 'US troops can train quite adequately on American territory, not on Arab territory, and an American soldier can acquire fighting skills on American land, not on Arab land,' JANA declared.

The truth, JANA continued, was that the exercises were 'directly linked to the present events in Lebanon, the Gulf and Chad, and there was no way of camouflaging these aggressive designs' which constituted 'a direct threat to the freedom of the peoples in the Arab homeland and Africa'.

The objective was clearly to underline US support for Iraq in the Gulf war, and for the illegal Hissene Habre regime in the Chadian capital N'Djamena, and to highlight Washington's determination to implement the US-sponsored 'troop withdrawal' agreement in Lebanon, signed in May between the Zionist state and

the Phalangist regime in Beirut. The agreement calls for permanent Israeli occupation of a swathe of Arab territory in southern Lebanon.

It was a disgrace, said JANA, that the regimes in Oman, Sudan, Egypt and Sudan had 'joined the bandwagon of blind subservience to America', but it expressed confidence that the peoples of those countries would 'not accept such collusion and will not forgive' their regimes for allowing 'the US invasion forces to enter Arab land and use it as a springboard for aggression'.

Similar firm condemnation of the US military manoeuvres has come from Ethiopia, Democratic Yemen and Syria, which all pointed to the broader strategic moves for the exercises. On 6th July, for example, Addis Ababa radio quoted a government spokesman as saying that the US exercises were 'a calculated move of provocative and reckless adventurism designed to intimidate certain countries' with respect to the Chadian civil war.

Taking account of Washington's virulent propaganda campaign alleging Libyan involvement in the Chad conflict, there can be little doubt that the Ethiopian spokesman was referring to the Jamahiriya as one of the main targets of the US provocations.

Eld message confirms ties with Morocco

MUAMMAR QADHAFI has received an exceptionally warm message from Morocco's King Hassan, to mark Eid al Fitr, the festival which celebrates the end of the Islamic holy month of

Ramadan. The message, broadcast by Tripoli radio on 16th July, provided confirmation that a firm basis for closer relations between the two countries had been laid during the Libyan leader's June visit to Rabat for talks with the Moroccan king.

Sent 'in the name of the Moroccan government and people, and in our name personally,' the message conveyed 'warmest congratulations and best wishes for the continued progress and prosperity of your people', and it stressed the 'ties of amity and fraternity which bind our two peoples together'.

In his Rabat talks, Muammar Qadhafi stressed the urgent need for a closing of ranks in the Arab region, in the aftermath of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and urged a concerted joint effort to mobilise Arab resources to counter Zionist expansionism.

That these priorities struck a chord in Morocco was evident from King Hassan's message. Referring to the 'dangers and conflicts' facing Islamic countries, the King expressed a determination 'to heal the rift within the nation and unify its ranks and direct its capabilities towards building, growth, peace, security and prosperity'. He looked forward to the day when 'the Islamic nation will be enjoying glory, strength and dignity'.

In the past, relations between Morocco and Libya have been strained. One source of friction was the Jamahiriya's support for Polisario Front guerrillas fighting for self-determination for the people of Moroccan-occupied Spanish Sahara. Another bone of contention has been the growing US military presence on Moroccan soil, which Tripoli sees as a serious potential threat to the independence and security of the Arab homeland.

The new closer ties between Rabat and Tripoli confounded the

Americans, who have traditionally exploited divisions within the Arab region to further their own ends, and the confirmation provided by the Eid al Fitr message that a new era has dawned in relations between Morocco and Libya doubtless set alarm bells ringing in the Pentagon and the State Department in Washington.

Polisario strikes

THE WAR in the Moroccan-occupied former Spanish colony of Western Sahara flared up again on 11th July with a major attack by forces of the Polisario Front on Moroccan army positions near the capital, El Ayoun. The attack involved about 1,000 guerrillas, with 150 vehicles backed by armour, and it was preceded by a four-hour artillery barrage. In the day-long battle, the Polisario forces inflicted heavy material and human losses on the Moroccan defenders before withdrawing into the desert. It was the first major operation in over a year by Polisario forces, who are fighting for Saharan independence.

In a statement released in Algiers, Polisario said that they had broken a 'one year truce' because of 'the growing intransigence of the Moroccan regime' and because the local military balance had been upset by massive US arms shipments to Morocco.

The Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in June resolved that a referendum should be held in the disputed territory within six months, to allow the population to choose between independence and Moroccan rule. The Polisario attack came just two days after King Hassan said that even if a referendum went in Polisario's favour, 'nothing will oblige us to offer our Sahara on a plate to a group of mercenaries'.

The Libyan Jamahiriya has in the past strongly backed Polisario, but considers that the OAU's referendum proposal provides the best way forward towards a peaceful settlement of the conflict. In June Muammer Qadhafi affirmed that Libya had 'fully carried out its duty' towards the Western Sahara, first helping it to attain independence from Spain and later providing support for Polisario. He added: 'The OAU has now become responsible for dealing with this issue'.

Baghdad's dangerous precedent

A PUBLIC rapprochement between the regimes in Baghdad and Cairo has been firmly condemned in Tripoli as a grave violation of the



OAU has proposed a referendum for the people of Western Sahara

pan-Arab boycott of Egypt, imposed at the Arab summit in Baghdad in 1979 in retaliation for Sadat's participation in the US-sponsored Camp David accords. The Jamahiriya has warned that the move, set in train by Iraq, was a dangerous precedent which, if unchallenged, might tempt other countries to follow suit.

The warning came after a visit to Cairo on 3rd July by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who held wide-ranging talks with Egyptian ruler Hosni Mubarak, aimed at re-establishing ties between the two countries. Major outcomes were agreements to revive a joint committee for technical and economic co-operation, to revive joint agreements, and to maintain 'constant contact' between the Iraqi and Egyptian foreign ministers. Iraq also agreed to expand its diplomatic mission in Cairo.

Mr Aziz's visit, the first by an Iraqi minister since 1979, was part of a process that has been under way over the past two years. As Iraq has gradually drifted closer to the US orbit and become ever more deeply embroiled in its aggression against Iran, Baghdad has relaxed its boycott of Egypt. Cairo has been sending regular arms shipments to Iraq, and 12,000 to 15,000 Egyptian 'volunteers' are assisting Iraqi war efforts.

On 6th July the Jamahiriya news

agency JANA announced that in response to the Iraqi move, Mr Abdel Ati al Ubeidi, Secretary of Libya's Foreign Liaison Bureau, had sent an urgent message to the foreign ministers of the member countries of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, explaining the grave implications of the Iraqi-Egyptian rapprochement, and calling for firm counter-measures. The Front, formed to oppose the Camp David accords, links the Jamahiriya, Algeria, Syria, Democratic Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Mr Ubeidi affirmed that the Iraqi minister's visit to Cairo had violated the Baghdad summit resolutions, and he warned that 'silence towards the Iraqi move will not only undermine the Arab position, but will also provide a pretext for any other Arab regime wishing to relinquish its national commitment'. In such an event, he stressed, 'our charters and resolutions will be rendered worthless'.

The Baghdad regime's move should be 'condemned, since it involves dealing with treason, and because it clearly contradicts Arab charters and resolutions which must be respected by all sides,' he declared.

The implications of the Cairo-Baghdad rapprochement were also the subject of a commentary by the

Political Editor of JANA on 8th July. The Editor stressed that one of the most worrying aspects was that Egypt was now openly allied with Iraq in the Gulf war. The Egyptian regime had 'officially and publicly entered the war alongside Iraq against the Islamic Revolution in Iran,' he declared, stressing that this would inevitably exacerbate the conflict.

The Editor also launched a strong attack on the Mubarak regime, declaring that it had 'blinded itself to its present, forgotten its past and discarded all thought for its future and destiny'. He concluded with a call on the Egyptian people to rise up in rebellion against Mubarak, who was 'a new Sadat'.

A 'brazen infringement' of diplomatic rights

DR ALI Abdesalam Treiki, the Jamahiriya's Permanent Representative at the United Nations in New York has bitterly attacked restrictions imposed by the US government on a new residence obtained by Libya for his use in Englewood, New Jersey, and has called for the matter to be brought before an urgent meeting of the UN Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the body which deals with problems faced by UN diplomats in New York.

US authorities have declared that the Libyan residence may be used only by Dr Treiki and his family 'solely for recreational purposes' agreed in advance. The US regulations say that 'the (Libyan) mission, in addition, may submit to the US Government for approval any other proposed use of the property by persons not referred to herein'.

In a letter to the UN Committee on 27th June Dr Treiki condemned the US restrictions, saying that the Jamahiriya 'never thought that the United States would interfere in the personal affairs of the permanent representatives to the world body'.

He added: 'This mission shall appreciate your convening an urgent meeting of the host committee to discuss this brazen infringement on and violation of the rights, privileges and immunities of a member state of the United Nations'.

The move by the Reagan administration comes as part of Washington's overall campaign of harassment and intimidation against the Jamahiriya, aimed at destabilising its economy and revolutionary leadership. In March last year Reagan imposed a boycott on imports of Libyan crude oil into

the United States and barred US firms from selling to Libya oil industry equipment. In March this year Reagan barred Libyan students at American universities from studying nuclear science and aviation-related subjects.

More Mediterranean provocation

IN ANOTHER clear sign of Washington's hostile stance towards the Libyan people, a US naval squadron, headed by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier 'Eisenhower', last month staged provocative manoeuvres off the Libyan coast near the Gulf of Sirte, in the full knowledge that Tripoli considers the Gulf to be an integral part of its territorial waters.

On 1st July Libyan air force jets scrambled to investigate the intruding US forces, and were intercepted by two F-14 warplanes from the 'Eisenhower'. The planes met 25 miles north of the Libyan coast, well inside the area claimed by the Jamahiriya.

The US has persisted in conducting such naval manoeuvres off the Libyan coast, despite an incident in August 1981 when Libyan jets clashed in an air battle with American fighters from the nuclear carrier 'Nimitz', which was part of a US naval task force on exercises in the Gulf of Sirte.

Kuwait stresses Arab unity

THE ARAB nation should act in unison on the Palestine-Zionist conflict, and no Arab regime had the right to conclude unilateral agreements with Israel, Kuwaiti Ruler Sheikh Jaber al Ahmad al Sabah has declared.

In a letter to Muammer Qadhafi, the Kuwaiti leader stressed: 'Our position as an Arab country, which forms a part of the wider Arab nation, is that of total rejection of any agreement with the Zionist enemy'. He added that the 'Arab cause is indivisible, and no Arab country has the right to act unilaterally regarding this cause. The Arabs as a whole should take unified decisions'.

Disclosing the contents of the letter of 29th June the Jamahiriya news agency JANA said that it had come in response to an earlier message from the Libyan leader, which had also been sent to other Arab kings and presidents. Colonel Qadhafi's message had warned of the dangers posed by the US-sponsored 'troop withdrawal' agreement signed in May between the Zionists and their Phalangist



Ali Omar Ermes at an exhibition of his work in London late last year

allies in Beirut. The accord allows Israeli forces to remain in permanent occupation of south Lebanon, providing the Zionists with a tangible gain from their invasion.

By signing the agreement, the Beirut regime broke with the long-standing joint Arab decision not to recognise or negotiate with the Zionist state.

Artist exhibits in London

THE LIBYAN painter Ali Omar Ermes was amongst eighteen artists from the Arab homeland whose work, mainly in graphics, was on display at London's Graffiti Gallery from 28th June to 18th August. The gallery held a smaller exhibition of Arab graphics last summer, and the response was so encouraging that this year's exhibition includes the work of a wider range of artists.

Amongst the other artists whose work was shown in London were Ghayas Akhras from Syria, Youssef Ahmad from Qatar and Walid Abu Shakra from Palestine.

A special report on the contribution of Libyan artists to the Arab nation's cultural revival appears on page 16.

'Women must mobilise too'

LIBYAN REVOLUTIONARY leader Muammer Qadhafi has issued a firm call for antiquated

attitudes to women to be cast aside in the Jamahiriya, so that women can play a full role in the comprehensive mobilisation of the Arab nation's resources required for the battle against Zionist expansionism.

Addressing students at the Women's Military College in Tripoli on 27th June, Colonel Qadhafi declared: 'Negative attitudes towards women in Libyan Arab society must be overcome so that women can enter military colleges and contribute to the building of a military defence force for the Jamahiriya and the Arab nation'.

Underlining his personal commitment to the eradication of such attitudes, he declared: 'As of now, we shall not accept that anyone may harm the dignity and pride of a woman who answers the call and undertakes military training'.

He explained: 'It is not feasible for Libya, as a base which incites for freedom and unity, to accommodate trivial or frivolous people who obstruct the mobilisation of our resources and debilitate our fighting spirit. We must crush all such threats. We cannot accept the reversal or squandering of our achievements'.

Muammer Qadhafi noted that the 'reactionary outlook towards women', in which they were treated as 'mere commodities with a cash value', which characterised Libya before the Al Fateh Revolution in 1969 continued to plague the Arab nation. Calling for women to attain their 'rightful place in Arab society', he stressed that this could not be achieved

without a 'true popular revolution in the Arab homeland, which embraces both the men and the women'. If such a revolution did not take place, he warned, then 'the capacity of this nation will be at risk'.

Colonel Qadhafi also praised the Secondary School for Aviation at the Meitiga Air Base, near Tripoli, which he visited the day before. The school trains students of both sexes to fly the most modern combat aircraft, in courses which the Libyan leader described as 'a new advancement' in the Jamahiriya. Stressing that there were no comparable military colleges for women anywhere else in the world, he noted that most women's colleges offered only courses in such subjects as social services and nursing, which 'do not promote the true position of women'.

No complicity in Fatah rebellion

THE JAMAHIRIYA has firmly rebutted accusations by Yasser Arafat alleging that Libya has fomented the rebellion in his Fatah Palestinian resistance organisation. Tripoli has dismissed the allegations as evidence of Arafat's desperation in the face of his inability to bring the Fatah rebels to heel.

In a commentary on 23rd June the Jamahiriya news agency JANA said that Arafat was clearly 'at his wits' end', and that the allegations of Libyan complicity were 'based on his feelings of impotence'.

The rebellion amongst Fatah



Second African Youth Festival takes place in the Jamahiriya this month

►fighters broke out in the Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon in May. At the centre of the rebels' complaints against Arafat is his flirtation with US-sponsored gains to the Palestinian people. They also reject his highly personalised style of leadership. The rebels demand a return to the original objectives of the Fatah movement, and in particular call for a renewed emphasis on the armed struggle against Israel.

A shaky ceasefire ended pitched battles between the rebels and Arafat loyalists, but the situation in the Bekaa remains tense.

From the start, Arafat has refused to accept that the rebellion is based on sincere and legitimate grievances, and instead has sought to evade responsibility by blaming it on 'external interference' by the Jamahiriya, Syria and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (another Palestinian resistance group).

Arafat's baseless allegations have also been vigorously denied by the rebels themselves. On 23rd June JANA quoted a rebel spokesman who said that the uprising was 'an internal affair within Fatah, and no party outside Fatah, whether from Syria, Libya or any Palestinian side, had interfered in it'.

Students consolidate ties with Peking

IN ANOTHER sign of the developing relations between the Jamahiriya and the People's Republic of China, a delegation from Libya's Students' General People's Congress conferred in Peking on 7th July with members of the All-China Youth League. The Jamahiriya news agency JANA said that the talks centred on 'consolidating relations between students in the two countries'.

The students' meeting followed the disclosure by JANA on 26th May that a high powered Libyan delegation, including members from several of the Jamahiriya's Secretariats, had been touring China and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea to explore ways of bolstering trade links.

The stage was set for an era of warm relations between Peking and Tripoli last autumn, when Muammer Qadhafi paid his first official visit to China, at the head of a delegation which included several of Libya's Secretaries. The talks in Peking centred on the formation of a Joint Committee to monitor and develop economic, scientific and technical co-operation between the two countries.

Earlier, in August last year, another Libyan delegation, headed by General People's Committee Secretary Jadallah Azourz Talhi, toured China and concluded a co-operation agreement providing for Chinese firms to take a more active part in the Jamahiriya's development programme.

Egyptian occupation of Sudan condemned

A FIRM call for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to help secure an evacuation of Egyptian military forces from Sudan has come from the Jamahiriya's Foreign Liaison Secretary, who condemned the Egyptian presence as a grave violation of the principles of the pan-African body.

On 4th July the Jamahiriya news agency JANA disclosed that Mr Abdel Ati al Ubeidi had sent a letter to the Secretary-General of the OAU, in which he stressed that 'the Egyptian military occupation of Sudan is a flagrant violation of the OAU's principles, is against the interests of the Sudanese people,

and further encourages the Khar-toum regime to oppress the people.'

Egypt's entry into Sudan followed widespread disturbances in the country, which reflected deep dissatisfaction with economic and political conditions. Cairo's intervention therefore constituted a 'flagrant interference in the domestic affairs of an OAU member state', while the use of the disturbances as a pretext for intervention set 'a precedent in expansionism which should be noted,' declared Mr Ubeidi.

The Egyptian military presence in Sudan also violated the OAU's principle of non-alignment between the world's superpowers, Mr Ubeidi continued, since Egypt's military alliance with the United States was so close that there was no effective difference between US and Egyptian military forces.

The Foreign Liaison Secretary concluded with a call for increased efforts 'for the withdrawal of the Egyptian occupation forces from Sudanese territory'.

Fair deal urged for developing nations

A CALL for measures aimed at linking the prices of developing countries' exports with the costs of their imports from the industrialised countries has come from Mr Ahmad Abdullah al Atrash, a member of the Jamahiriya's delegation to this year's meeting in Belgrade of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

On 29th June the OPEC news agency OPECNA quoted him as saying: 'As a developing country, Libya expects an adequate reciprocal reduction in the price of goods and equipment exported by industrialised countries,' as compensation for the fall in the prices

of the commodities exported by Third World peoples.

He rejected the contention that the problems of inflation in the industrialised countries were caused by the high prices of raw materials imported from the Third World. Opponents of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) of which the Jamahiriya is a member, have often accused OPEC of creating world inflation.

The reverse was, in fact, true, Mr al Atrash commented. Over the past few years, the prices for raw materials, including crude oil, had declined in relative, and often in absolute terms. By comparison, the prices of manufactured goods exported by the industrialised western countries to the developing world had continued to rise. The reality was that inflation was a problem of the industrialised countries, and one that they were also exporting to the developed world.

Mr al Atrash confirmed that the reduction in the price of oil, and the decline in the world market ensuing from the world oil glut had hampered the Jamahiriya's development programme over the past year. The embargo imposed by President Reagan in March 1982 on the import of Libyan oil into the United States had been an additional burden.

African Youth Festival plans reviewed

THE LIBYAN Jamahiriya is the venue for this month's Second Africa Youth Festival, and preparations for the event were reviewed at a meeting in Tripoli on 4th July between the festival's Preparatory Committee, the Libyan Students' General People's Committee, and a visiting African youth delegation.

France 'in bad company in Chad'

IN A wide-ranging interview with the French daily *Le Monde* last month, Muammer Qadhafi explained the Jamahiriya's stance on the Chadian civil war; and strongly criticised French efforts to reassert its influence in Africa. He also spelled out Tripoli's attitude to the rebellion in the Fatah Palestinian resistance organisation, and elaborated on Libya's relations with the Soviet Union.

On French policy in Africa and Chad

□ I recognise no role for France in Chad or anywhere else on the continent. Africa is for the Africans, as Europe is for the Europeans. The anachronistic concepts which inspire your government are detestable to our people, and will finish by destroying French interests in the Third World.

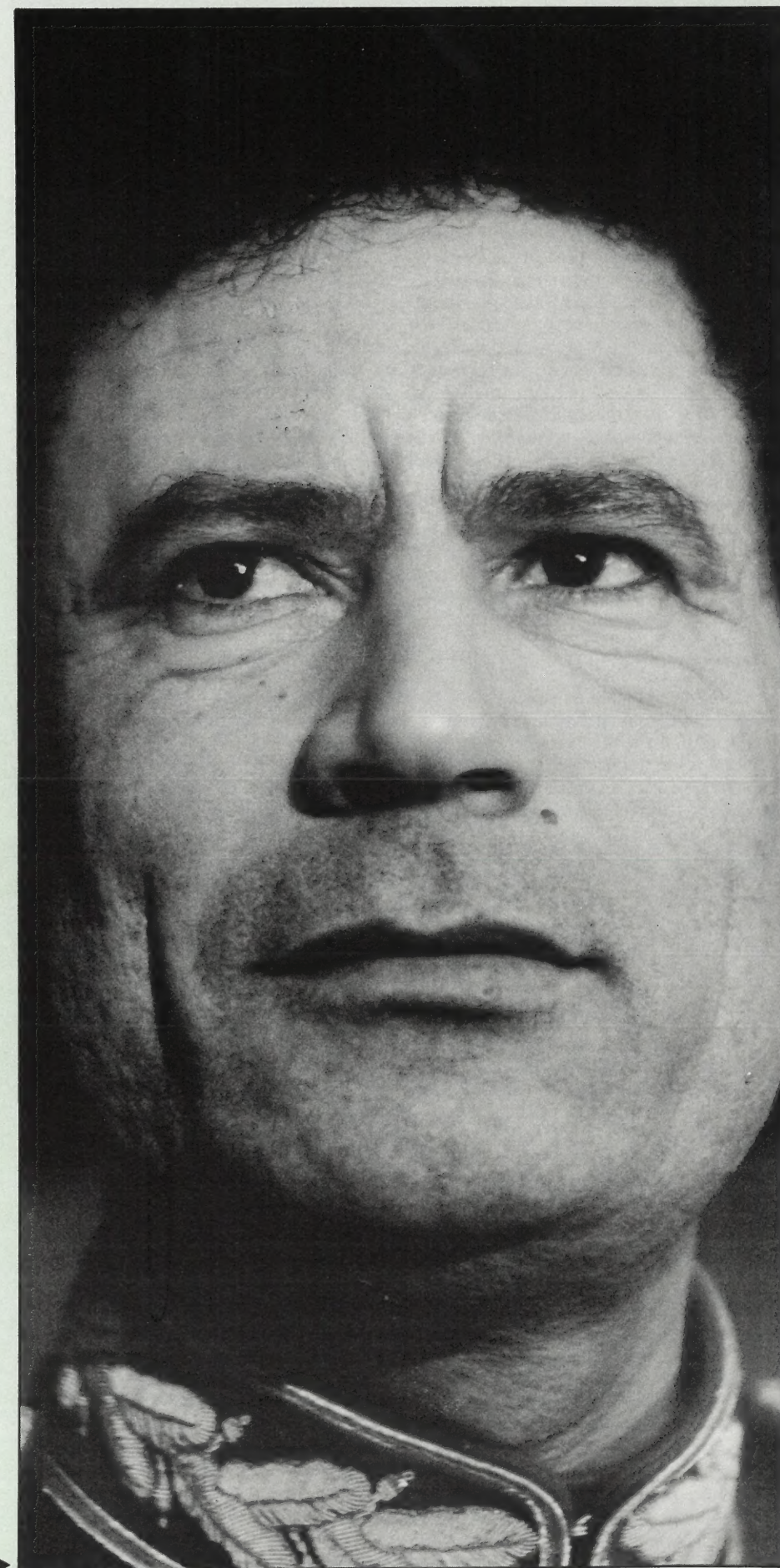
France can, of course, develop friendly and co-operative relationships with all countries. But France cannot act as a guardian and involve herself in the internal affairs of Chad, particularly not by giving military aid to one of the two parties to the conflict.

France is in poor company in Chad. She is standing beside the US, transforming an internal conflict into a confrontation between imperialism and a people yearning for liberty. She is working with Egypt, Sudan, Zaire — satellites of the US — to keep the American puppet Hissene Habre in power.

On Libyan support for Goukouni Oueddei

□ Even if I was giving arms to Mr Goukouni Oueddei's Government of Unity and National Transition, I would be helping the legitimate government of Chad. That is a coalition of eleven groups, crossing political, ethnic, tribal and religious boundaries covering most of the country from the Muslim north to the Christian south. Goukouni represents the majority, which comprises ten factions, while Habre represents only one faction. The north and the south support Goukouni. The southern leader, Kamougue, is Goukouni's Vice President.

If we help Goukouni, we are helping him because he is the legitimate President of Chad. We side with legitimacy and with stability, and we are against the civil war there. We have deployed all our efforts to bring the Chadians to the negotiating table. ►



► Habre rejected this, and therefore we side with the legitimate party in Chad.

GUNT was set up democratically, under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity. France is supporting the Minister of Defence (Habre) from this self-same government who occupied the capital N'Djamena, by force, while the world's press is unleashed against us Africans, brothers and neighbours, because we had the audacity to say that Goukouni Oueddei is still the legitimate President of Chad.

(*Le Monde* added that Colonel Qadhafi revealed the reason for the sudden departure of Libyan armed forces from Chad in 1981. They had been invited in by President Oueddei to help quell the Habre rebellion. Colonel Qadhafi said that in the autumn of 1981 US Secretary of State Alexander Haig woke up French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson at dawn, to tell him that Libya was about to overthrow President Oueddei's government. Paris moved swiftly to warn Mr Oueddei of the alleged danger from the Libyan forces. In response, the Chadian President requested an immediate withdrawal of the Libyan forces. It was a decision, Muammer Qadhafi revealed, which Mr Oueddei had bitterly regretted ever since. 'The retreat of our army made possible the victory of Hissene Habre', he declared.)

On a solution to the Chad conflict

□ We are in favour of a peaceful solution, for negotiations between the warring parties without any outside interference, as the OAU bureau recommended in the resolution adopted at Addis Ababa on 16th July. We invited Habre and Goukouni to open a dialogue, but Habre categorically rejected the plan.

Too bad. Resistance will continue until the defeat of American imperialism and its agents.

On Zaire's involvement in Chad

□ Zairean President Mobutu is just a servant. He would never have dared to send his own troops without the blessing of Washington and Tel Aviv.

When we speak of Zaire, we also mean Israel, because Zaire is the only African country which resumed its relations with the Zionist enemy, and because military co-operation between them is very strong.

Furthermore, the Zairean troops which are now intervening in Chad have been trained by the Israelis. Goukouni is now in possession of Israeli arms which his army captured. As far as the Egyptian regime is concerned, the arms which Habre used, and which were seized in (the southern Chad town of) Abeche, were old Soviet-made arms from Egypt and Israel. Sudan is also contributing with forces to fight alongside Habre.

On the US role in Chad

□ Habre has promised the Americans bases in Chad. If America builds bases in Chad, this means that Washington will control the

heart of Africa and threaten the entire continent. It will destroy its regimes and threaten the liberation forces in Africa because Chad overlooks the African countries to the west, east, south and north.

On Libya's attitude to France

□ The French people ought to understand that we are ready to co-operate with France and establish mutual interests. I am prepared to visit France, or receive the French President here. We are prepared for a meeting at any level. However, it is France which is blocking such moves. She is under American pressure, and her intentions are not sincere. The French people must understand our point of view, and our stand towards the French government, so that they do not accuse us, as a result of hostile propaganda, of being enemies and looking for problems.

On US hostility to the Jamahiriya

□ We ourselves do not know the reason for this. I believe that Reagan is under the influence of Zionism, which is hostile to Libya.

We have mutual interests with America and, in the final analysis, America is the loser in its hostility to Libya.

The extent of Libyan-American co-operation is very limited. The presence of thousands of Libyan students in America does not signify co-operation. They are being harassed. They have been forbidden from studying nuclear energy and aviation. A number of them have left America for Canada, Britain and other European countries.

On the Jamahiriya's relations with the Soviet Union

□ Our relations with the Soviet Union are being consolidated as the challenges of imperialism multiply. And, if the circumstances demand it, I would not hesitate to conclude a friendship treaty with Moscow. But on the other hand, we would stand up to the Russians too, if they started behaving like the Americans.

It is true that I have criticised Arab countries which tie themselves to the Soviet Union, but I admit that my criticisms were not based on concrete personal experience. Since the death of (Egyptian President) Nasser, whose spiritual heirs we are, and the betrayal of Sadat (a reference to the Sadat regime's peace treaty with the Zionist state), Libya sees herself as the guarantor of Arab/Soviet friendship in all areas — political, military and ideological.

We have now gained experience of the Soviet Union, and have discovered that many of the things we used to hear about it, and for which we criticised Moscow, were untrue. So far, the Soviet Union has not made any mistakes. Should we feel that it is exercising an imperialist policy against us, however, we would denounce it as an imperialist country, and we would resist it as much as we resist America.

On contrasts between the Green Book and Marxism

□ Of course there are huge differences between a Marxist society and a state which belongs to the masses, like ours. But they are just two parallel tracks which both lead towards progress. That is certainly not the case with capitalism.

On the Jamahiriya's attitude to the Fatah revolution

□ Yasser Arafat is a man I like a great deal, and who I consider as a personal friend, just like Abu Iyad (a senior member of the PLO Executive Committee) and the other comrades. But those who began the uprising within Fatah are the real revolutionaries, men of the left with whom we naturally have something in common.

Libya, like other Arab countries, assists the Palestinians. The Jamahiriya continues to aid the Palestinians, whether there is a rebellion or not. We will continue to arm Fatah as in the past. But the fact is that these revolutionaries are in control of the apparatus of the Palestinian organisation. So they are the beneficiaries.

On the Israeli-Lebanese agreement

□ There is no such thing as an Israeli-Lebanese agreement. What happened was an annexation of Lebanon by the Israeli army. We do not recognise the existence of such an agreement. It lacks legitimacy, and cannot be justified.

An agreement takes place between free parties. There is no free Lebanese side, however, because Lebanon is occupied. The agreement is therefore a farce. The Israeli side has dictated conditions to Lebanon. This cannot be called an agreement.

The only solution is the unconditional withdrawal of the Israelis from Lebanon. We would rather they stayed in Lebanon, where they will take heavy losses from resistance operations, then withdraw under the terms of the Beirut-Tel Aviv accord.

On support for Lebanese leftists and Islamic groups

□ We will support them more than ever. We will give them unlimited aid to intensify their resistance to the Israeli occupation and the shameful agreement which Tel Aviv imposed on the government in Beirut.

On relations with Iran

□ I support the Iranian revolution. That is why I have written to Khomeini asking him not to come down hard on the communists in the Tudeh party, who are part of the revolutionary force.

On his recent visits to Saudi Arabia and Morocco

□ These visits show the unity of the Arab nation. Both on the right and the left, the Arabs have the right to quarrel and make up — these are just family affairs.

IN A move which has far-reaching implications for closer solidarity between Arab countries, the Jamahiriya's General People's Committee has held a joint meeting with its equivalent, the Tunisian Cabinet, to agree a comprehensive programme for boosting co-operation between the two countries. The meeting is seen by both sides as a step towards ultimate union between the neighbouring countries, and as an example for other Arabs to follow.

The meeting, held in Tripoli on 19th July, was one of the most important outcomes of the initiatives for Arab unity launched by the Jamahiriya over the past two years. In his address to the General People's Congress in January 1982, Qadhafi revealed that the Jamahiriya would launch mergers with Syria and Algeria. These mergers, however, would not be 'instant unions' of the type which have failed in the past. Instead, the objective would be 'mergers of policies'. Each country's domestic and foreign policies would be harmonised, but the political system within each would retain its individual characteristics. Comprehensive Arab unity remained the ultimate objective, but it was felt that such a gradual, step-by-step approach had a greater chance of yielding concrete results than the old-style 'instant mergers'.

In January last year Muammer Qadhafi visited Algeria, where agreement was announced on a merger scheme. He returned to Tripoli overland, and while in Tunisia held talks with President Habib Bourguiba and his ministers. Agreement was announced on a similar merger scheme, and a Joint Committee was set up to examine practical steps towards unity. Over the past year Libyan and Tunisian officials have held frequent meetings, while a series of specialised joint technical committees have met to examine detailed proposals for action in individual sectors, for example in agriculture and information.

Addressing the joint meeting of the Libyan General People's Committee and the Tunisian Cabinet — termed the Higher Joint Committee — Muammer Qadhafi declared that the meeting was a 'historic initiative' which formed 'the cornerstone for the revival of the Arab nation and the unification of its people'. It was 'an example for joint Arab endeavour', and 'some day in the future, other Arabs may join us'.

Expressing satisfaction with the meetings and consultations which had led up to the Higher Joint Committee meeting, the Libyan leader said that all these efforts had 'paved the way for unity, not only between the two countries, but also for Arab unity, which is imperative for the preservation of the Arab nation'.

Muammer Qadhafi stressed that the success of the unionist efforts between Tripoli and Tunis rested on respect for each other's internal political system. 'We would not interfere in Tunisians' choice of political system, whatever its form. Our ideological line is clear, but that would not affect Tunisia's own political arrangement', he declared.



Bourguiba and Qadhafi at their meeting early this year

'An example for joint Arab endeavour'

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S determination to forge Arab unity has been given concrete expression by a joint meeting in Tripoli of the Libyan General People's Committee and the Tunisian Cabinet. A special correspondent reviews Muammer Qadhafi's address to the joint meeting, in which he stressed that it provided an example for other Arabs to follow.

Determination

The Libyan leader identified a determination to secure Arab unity under a single pan-Arab political system as the primary cause of the failure of earlier unity projects in the region. The desire for a unified political system had been understandable. Effective co-ordination between a monarchy and a republic, for example, had seemed an impossible contradiction. Most unionist schemes had been advanced by 'revolutionary' regimes, and these had naturally argued that Arab unity could come only after revolutions had swept the region, bringing a series of compatible governments.

'Arab unity used to be propounded through revolution,' explained Muammer Qadhafi. 'And if there was no revolution, there would be no prospect of achieving unity'. This approach had failed however, not least because many so-called revolutions had brought no real change. As a result, 'True Arab unity became dependent on a miracle — a genuine revolution'.

The conflicts inherent in a union between Arab countries with contrasting political systems were, however, more apparent than real, Colonel Qadhafi affirmed. 'The Arab region covers a huge area, and its different parts have undergone different political and

economic development. But it is nevertheless possible to forge an Arab unity which takes account of regional differences'.

He continued: 'We can begin unionist endeavours which accommodate the republics, jamahiriya's and emirates, and even the kingdoms. Let the king remain a king, with his system, and let the republics remain as such. But all can organise within the framework of Arab unity.'

'If we understand this perspective,' declared the Libyan leader, 'we will have overcome a major political obstacle to Arab unity, and removed it from the path of unionist action.'

Muammer Qadhafi stressed, however, that the new 'merger of policies' approach was only a step towards comprehensive Arab unity, and he added that it was for the Tunisian and Libyan people to decide the pace at which they wished to move on to full unity. The Libyan-Tunisian Higher Joint Committee 'cannot veto the people in Libya and Tunisia if they launch speedy unionist action, or take intensive steps to realise unity or achieve integration, or remove frontiers between our two countries.'

The Libyan leader noted that such complete unity between Arab countries was in fact one of the key ideals of the Al Fateh Revolution. 'I personally, would have no objection if the Libyan people pronounced themselves as one with the Tunisian people, and pronounced the two countries to be one,' he declared.

Nevertheless, such a comprehensive union was not on the Higher Joint Committee's immediate agenda. 'Today, we are dealing with existing realities,' Muammer Qadhafi affirmed.

In reply, Tunisian Prime Minister Muhammad M'Zali signalled his agreement with the Libyan leader's message, stressing the need for careful preparation of each stage in the merger between the two countries. The existing co-operation between Libya and Tunisia was 'a major step along the path of unity, which must be the final result of a comprehensive and thorough endeavour, each step of which should be irreversible', he declared.

Economic programme stresses complementarity

ONE OF the key reasons for the failure of past unity schemes in the Arab region was an over-emphasis on the ideological aspects of unity, and a lack of regard for the hard economic factors which must underlie effective joint political action. In its current projects for mergers with other Arab countries, the Jamahiriya is anxious to avoid such pitfalls. This was clearly spelled-out by Muammar Qadhafi in his address to last month's meeting of the Libyan-Tunisian Higher Joint Committee, in which he stressed that the two countries' economies complemented each other. A concern for practical measures which took advantage of the two countries' contrasting resources and attributes was also the theme for a sixteen-point co-operation programme agreed by the Committee as a basis for action in the coming months.

Muammar Qadhafi stressed that the economies of Libya and Tunisia held out the prospect of wide-ranging and mutually beneficial co-operation. In contrast to Tunisia, the Jamahiriya had an impressive array of natural resources. Libya's huge reserves of oil and natural gas were well-known, but he revealed that exploration was under way for iron ore, gold, magnesium, uranium and other minerals. Moreover, Libya's 2,000 kilometre coastline gave the country a wealth of marine resources. Colonel Qadhafi noted that the Jamahiriya's population, while growing fast, was still small in relation to the country's huge area and resources.

He contrasted these Libyan attributes with Tunisia's situation. The Jamahiriya's western neighbour was a small country with limited natural resources. Compared to Libya, it had a large population, which possessed a wide range of technical skills. He concluded: 'We in the Jamahiriya complement the people of Tunisia'.

A determination to exploit this com-

PAST UNIONIST efforts in the Arab homeland have been undermined by a failure to forge economic ties between the countries involved. It is a mistake that Tripoli and Tunis are determined not to repeat.

plementarity lay at the heart of a sixteen-point co-operation programme agreed by the Higher Joint Committee on 20th July as the next stage in the merger process. Highlights of the agreement were:

Trade: Priority will be given by each country to exports from the other, and trade between Libya and Tunisia will be exempted from customs duties. A unified tariff will be applied to foreign imports.

Industrial development: Co-operation in industrial development will be stepped up, with particular reference to chemicals and petrochemicals, fertilisers, lorries and tractors, high and low tension electricity generators, mining, food processing, textiles, leather and shoes, fishing equipment and paper.

Investment: A joint investment corporation with a capital of \$150 million, shared equally between the two countries, will be set up with its headquarters in Tunis. The corporation will form specialised companies and finance joint development projects.

Transport: The planned coastal railway from Ras Jadir, on the Libyan side of the frontier, to Madnin in Tunisia, will go ahead, with an agreement for financing to be signed by the end of October this year. The cost will be \$24 million.

Electricity: The Libyan and Tunisian elec-

tricity grids will be fully linked, and a financing agreement for the scheme was initialled.

Tourism: Tourism between the two countries will be re-activated, and Libya and Tunisia will co-operate in exchanging tourism personnel and in training for the industry. Tourist offices and hotel management schools will be set up in the Jamahiriya. Citizens of each country will be granted special facilities to assist them in reviewing the development progress attained by Libya and Tunisia.

Planning: Development plans will be co-ordinated.

Education: School curricula and books will be standardised. Educational establishments at all levels will be twinned, and teachers from the two countries will hold joint meetings.

Media and Culture: Co-operation will be boosted between media institutions in each country, and cultural co-operation between Tunisian Governorates and Libyan municipalities will be encouraged.

The Libyan-Tunisian Higher Joint Committee agreed to establish a Follow-Up Committee, comprising the Secretaries for Foreign Liaison, Economy and Light Industry and Planning, on the Libyan side, and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, National Economy, and Planning on the Tunisian side. In addition, it was agreed to set up specialised Ministerial and Secretarial Committees covering Economy; Education, Culture, Press and Youth; Manpower, Vocational Training and Social Security; Transport; Electricity and Construction; and Technical Co-operation.

The sixteen-point agreement, initialled by Mr Jadallah Azourz Talhi, Secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee and by Tunisian Premier Muhammad M'Zali, concluded by setting January next year as the date for the second meeting of the Higher Joint Committee.

Joint stance on foreign affairs

THE JOINT meeting of the Libyan General People's Committee (GPC) and the Tunisian Cabinet followed a similar meeting between the GPC and the Algerian Council of Ministers in July last year, which also approved a series of practical bilateral measures aimed at co-ordinating internal policies. The Algerian-Libyan accord, however, excluded reference to foreign affairs since the two countries already co-ordinate

their foreign policies through their common membership of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, formed to counter the Camp David accords.

A notable aspect of last month's agreement between Tunis and Tripoli was a commitment to bring the two countries' foreign policies into line. The two sides stressed 'the importance of having direct contacts and consultations' between per-

sonnel involved in foreign affairs. The agreed objective was 'to co-ordinate the two countries' stands on various issues'.

Moreover, Tripoli and Tunis agreed to exchange political information, and to attain 'higher levels of bilateral co-ordination at regional and international forums, particularly the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity, the Islamic Conference Organisation and the Non-Aligned Movement'.



African students demonstrate in London against imperialist intervention in Chad.

Foreign intervention: The new challenge to Africa

AFRICA TODAY is a beleaguered continent. The epoch of anti-colonialist struggles and bold independent economic development programmes in the fifties and sixties has yielded to a period of renewed external intervention and subversion. This time round the foreign powers' objective is not the creation of a formal empire with possessions, but the method they employ to exert control over African countries is no less effective or embracing. Whole countries and homelands are in the process of becoming virtual dependencies or protectorates of western powers. As with the old European empires, their policy is to demand from African governments concessions or special dispensations for the operation of their transnational companies or treaties of political influence, and they deploy considerable financial and military clout against recalcitrant African states which refuse their wishes.

With the conflict in Chad the revival of foreign involvement in Africa has reached its most predatory form. The former French colony, one of the weakest and poorest countries on the continent, is in the act of being disembowelled and seized by occupying powers which the legitimate government of the country cannot possibly hope to hold at bay with its meagre forces. The appalling poverty and lack of social cohesion has provided an alignment of foreign powers with a grand opportunity to expand their influence and domination on the African continent at the expense of the inhabitants' right to self-determination.

LIBYA HAS no military bases outside its territory, and no Libyan forces fighting in other African states, yet it is accused repeatedly by the United States of intervention and subversion beyond its borders. Jon Bearman reviews the scale of foreign intervention in Africa and considers its implications for Africa's hard won independence.

The reported presence of Israeli military advisers in Chad at the head of Zairean troops indicates the extent to which African liberation movements and progressive African countries are under attack. The Zionists were expelled from the continent in the early 1970s because of their policies of racism and expansion; their return inevitably puts at risk the basis of African and Arab solidarity, in which African countries supported the cause of Arab liberation and self-determination and Arab countries backed the objectives of anti-colonial and independence movements in Africa.

The repercussions of renewed Zionist infiltration of Africa are evident from the

military co-operation pact Zairean dictator Mobutu Sese Seko concluded with Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon in mid-January. The agreement provided for the training of Mobutu's army by Israeli military experts, supplementing an earlier agreement in which Israel supplies the regime with intelligence officers and Mobutu's bodyguards. The significance of the treaty was that it came as a diplomatic breakthrough for the Zionists in Africa, who demanded and got diplomatic recognition from Mobutu in return for their co-operation.

Mobutu's controversial decision to establish diplomatic links with Israel created a disturbing precedent. Not only did it boost the confidence of those African countries which have always retained government to government relations with the Zionists — Malawi, Swaziland and Lesotho, but also provided encouragement for the powerful Zionist lobbies in the Ivory Coast and other pro-western African countries to seek similar ties with Israel.

More significantly, the Zairean military agreement with the Zionists was an alarming development for the frontline states in southern Africa, who saw in it an attempt to converge on them from two fronts. Their suspicions have been borne out by a series of startling revelations emanating from the former Prime Minister of Zaire, Nguza Karl I Bond, who recently disclosed the existence of a 'secret plan involving Zaire, Israel and South Africa' to undermine the Angolan regime. Not surprisingly, in



South African troops on manoeuvres: stepping up aggression against the surrounding black states

Luanda, Angolan President Eduardo dos Santos warned that his country was 'being subjected to a strategy of destabilisation and encirclement devised by Washington'.

South African and Israeli military collaboration forms a key element in the onslaught against independent Africa. The Zionists have even participated in joint military operations against the frontline states and the SWAPO and ANC freedom movements, which are fighting for the liberation of southern Africa from the domination of the apartheid state. Only two months ago, Mozambican President Samora Machel reported that Frelimo forces had shot down a pilotless plane manufactured by Israeli Military Industries. Details have also appeared of an Israeli agreement to supply the South African 'bantustan' of Ciskei with weapons.

South Africa, whose massive economy is built out of the racist system, regularly employs military force to check and subvert the independent political and economic aspirations of the frontline states. South African forces have repeatedly intervened in Angola and Mozambique, where the progressive governments have striven to break free from the South African orbit of control. In 1976 Pretoria went as far as to launch a full-scale offensive against Angola with the objective of toppling the MPLA government and imposing a regime subservient to the West.

More recent South African military ventures have included the attempted overthrow of Albert Rene's government in the Seychelles by an army of hired mercenaries, a paratroop raid on Lesotho which left several civilians dead and the organised sabotage of the Zimbabwean Airforce. Even these attacks, however, were surpassed by the horrendous bombing of Maputo in May, a clear indication that South Africa intends to step up its aggression against the surrounding black states unless they withdraw their support for the cause of black liberation in southern Africa.

The revival of French imperialism under the presidencies of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and François Mitterrand is similarly linked to the preservation of western economic interest and influence. France has invested enormously in its former West African colonies, owning 53 per cent of the capital in the Ivory Coast alone, and successive French governments have never been averse to using financial and military power to discipline French client rulers or countries audacious enough to challenge the diktat from Paris.

French troops assume the role of a colonial policeman throughout French-speaking Africa. When secessionists in the Zairean province of Katanga revolted in 1978, France reacted quickly to head off an imminent threat to the Mobutu regime. French troops, together with a contingent of Belgian paratroopers, were instantly dropped into the area and deployed against the insurgents. The year before, French Jaguar warplanes and foreign legionnaires saw action in Mauritania, where the bankrupt regime of Ould Daddah, another French puppet, was locked in combat with the Polisario Front liberation movement, and later that year Paris sent troops to Chad to bolster the hard-pressed forces of French satellite ruler Félix Maloum.

Despite the fact that most French colonies in Africa had won independence by 1960, France has continued to retain military bases or a military presence in Chad, the Cameroons, Togo, Gabon, Senegal (where there is a major base at Dakar), the Ivory Coast and Djibouti. It has, in addition, engaged in a policy of subversion and political intrigue to oust regimes which French policy-makers at the Quai d'Orsay have deemed hostile to their interests. In 1979, for example, France had Emperor Bokassa of former French Central African Republic prised out in favour of a relative. More recently, France was linked to the overthrow of the

revolutionary government of Thomas Sankara in Upper Volta.

By contrast the ascendancy of American power and influence in Africa, with historic exceptions like Liberia, is a comparatively recent development, beginning seriously after President Sadat of Egypt signed the Camp David Accords. Since that time the United States has established military bases in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia and Morocco, spearheading the colonial drive in Africa. The Rapid Deployment Force (renamed the United States Central Command) now has a capacity to project 200,000 elite troops anywhere in northern and eastern Africa within a matter of days.

The Americans have yet to resort to military intervention in an African war, although they came near earlier this year when Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft were despatched to Egypt from Tinker Air Force base to confront the Libyan Jamahiriya. The United States has preferred to adopt the more subtle tactics of assassination and political subversion, relying on local agents and forces. It was the Americans, for instance, who were behind the attempted coups in Ghana in November and February, according to documents leaked from the West Germany Embassy in Accra.

The main thrust of American policy in Africa, like that of other external powers involved in the continent's affairs, is the historic task of protecting the West's political domination and economic wealth. In effect, with the renewed colonial challenge, the West has set out to secure access and control of the continent's vast storehouse of mineral wealth and natural resources, riches which should rightfully belong to the African people themselves. The target of the present phase of foreign intervention is those African states and leaders who have the courage to resist the West's arrogantly self-proclaimed right to seize and plunder the African continent for their own advantage.

Habre surrenders Chad's independence

FOLLOWING A string of successes last month by the forces of Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei, the US-backed rebel regime of Hissene Habre in the capital, N'Djamena, was forced to call in military intervention from its foreign sponsors. In an effort to justify this external interference in the Chadian civil war, Habre and his backers have stepped up their propaganda campaign alleging the direct involvement of Libyan armed forces in the fighting. Not a shred of evidence has been produced to support these wild assertions.

The first direct foreign intervention in Chad came in June when the regime of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire despatched 300 soldiers and three combat aircraft to help defend the capital, N'Djamena. Last month, Zairean involvement deepened with the arrival in Chad of a further 1,350 troops and three French-built Mirage fighter bombers.

One of the Libyan Jamahiriya's basic concerns over the Chad conflict is that western powers might use the civil war to establish a military presence in Libya's southern neighbour which could pose a potentially serious threat to the independence and territorial integrity of the Jamahiriya. A particular concern has been the possibility that the Zionist state would inveigle its way into Chad via Zaire. In January this year the Mobutu regime concluded a comprehensive military agreement with Tel Aviv, under which Israel supplies and trains Zairean forces.

The Jamahiriya's fears have proven well-founded. On 13th July the Paris journal *Afrique-Asie* disclosed that the Zairean contingent in N'Djamena included Israeli officers, and three days later the *International Herald Tribune* noted that the soldiers 'are Israeli-trained'.

In a move which underlined his dependence on foreign support, Hissene Habre has also intensified the recruitment of western mercenaries. On 19th July the *Guardian* disclosed that 'A score of mercenaries of various nationalities have arrived in N'Djamena after being recruited by the Chad government of Mr Hissene Habre'. On 23rd July the *Economist* noted: 'Mr Habre's mercenaries, recruited in France and Belgium, are mostly middle-aged, with crew-cut hair and colonial-style khaki shorts.'

The presence of French mercenaries reflects a wider programme of French assistance to the Habre regime. In July, Paris began an emergency airlift of military equipment to the N'Djamena regime. At first, French civilians were in charge of the operation. On 19th July, however, the *Times* disclosed that 'a dozen members of the DGSE, France's equivalent of America's CIA, have begun to take over from civilians delivering French military material to Mr Habre'. The paper added



Hissene Habre

IT IS widely agreed that responsibility for escalating the war in Chad lies with the United States. To provide the pretext for American involvement, and to pressure France to intervene directly, Washington launched a propaganda campaign, through the Habre regime, claiming Libyan forces were in Chad.

that the DGSE men were 'under French command'.

Airlift

Until last month, the US depended on its regional surrogate regimes to provide Habre with the military backing he so urgently needed. On 20th July, however, the State Department in Washington announced that the US was to launch an airlift of \$10 million worth of supplies requested by the Habre regime. Five days later, the first of six US Air Force C-141 Starlifter transports carrying the equipment landed in the Chadian capital.

The direct link between the Chadian civil war and American efforts to isolate the Jamahiriya and threaten its security was underlined by the *Times* on 26th July. It disclosed that the first group out of the first US transport plane 'were ten men, who set

up a small command post to communicate by satellite with the Sixth Fleet, cruising off Libya, in the Gulf of Sirte'.

Foreign powers are using baseless allegations of Libyan involvement in the fighting as their pretext for intervening in Chad. The Habre regime, however, has been unable to produce a shred of evidence to support such claims. This has not been for want of trying. On 17th July, the Habre regime organised a carefully stage-managed propaganda event in N'Djamena, in which a 'captive Libyan' was put on display. The international media was not convinced. The following day the *International Herald Tribune* pointedly said that the man was 'barefoot and frightened-looking', implying that his 'confession' had been under duress.

The attitude of the media was summed up by the *Economist* on 23rd July, which referred to 'the alleged Libyan corporal' and commented: 'Some scepticism may be in order'. The respected journal, which if anything leans to the political right, said that the Jamahiriya had 'not (provided) Libyan fighting men' to the forces of Goukouni Oueddei.

Habre's repeated assertions regarding the presence of Libyan forces in Chad has prompted Tripoli to request the OAU to despatch a committee of inquiry to the war zone to establish the truth. This proposal was readily accepted by President Oueddei and his Government of Unity and National Transition (GUNT). It was rejected by Habre, further undermining his credibility.

Prior to the flare-up of the Chadian civil war, relations between Tripoli and Paris had been improving. There were fears that the escalating French involvement in Chad would bring serious friction between Paris and Tripoli, which strongly opposes French efforts to reassert its influence in its former colonies in Africa.

Both the Jamahiriya and France, however, have moved to avert such a rift. On 14th July President Mitterrand flatly rejected a request from Habre for the despatch of French regular forces to Chad, saying that there was no need for Paris to step up its assistance to his regime.

Shortly after, on 20th July, Muammar Qadhafi reiterated Libya's firm opposition to French intervention in Africa, but also affirmed that Tripoli wished to avoid confrontation with Paris. Interviewed by the French daily *Le Monde*, Colonel Qadhafi declared: 'I recognise no role for France in Chad or anywhere else on the continent. Africa is for the Africans, as Europe is for the Europeans'.

Revealing that the Jamahiriya had invited President Mitterrand to Tripoli, Muammar Qadhafi declared that he himself was prepared to visit Paris to clear up 'misunderstandings' and to 'deepen and extend relations' between the two countries.



Cartoon by leading Libyan artist Muhammad az Zawawi

Cultural revival underpins Libyan independence

REVOLUTIONARY LIBYA emphasises the acquisition by its citizens of the technical and managerial skills required to meet the urgent tasks of social and economic development. This does not mean, however, that culture and the arts are being neglected because they are not directly 'productive'. On the contrary, they are given full encouragement, and Libyan writers and playwrights, painters, musicians and cartoonists, are enjoying a revival which is itself an integral part of the wider Arab cultural renaissance.

Many of the recent works of Libyan artists display a strongly political dimension, providing powerful comments on the current Arab political situation, and stressing the need for radical change. Politics lies at the centre of the poems and songs of Selimane al Tarhouny, whose works are frequently broadcast on Jamahiriya radio. His most recent work is a satirical play, *The Hypocrites*, which has been staged in Tripoli and will be Libya's entry in the forthcoming Arab theatre competition in Syria.

The targets for Al Tarhouny's satire are the Arab regimes and their advisers, whose endless lip-service to pan-Arab unity contrasts sharply with their lack of effective action, and who invoke the precepts of Islam and other traditional and venerated virtues as the basis for their legitimacy while indulging personally in all the vices which they so vigorously spurn in public.

The finale of *The Hypocrites* is a parody of an Arab summit conference, in which the heads of state pass seven resolutions. The first is extremely important, but secret; the

INDEPENDENCE FROM foreign interference is cherished in modern Libya above all else, and cultural independence is seen as a vital complement to economic and political freedoms. *Robert Miller* reviews the work of three Libyan artists whose work is attracting increasing international recognition.

second, third, fourth and fifth are equally significant, but even more secret. The final two resolutions declare forcefully the key importance of Arab unity, and the determination of the leaders to hold another summit to prepare further vital resolutions.

The Al Fateh Revolution sets great store on lifting the burden of bureaucratic inefficiency which plagues the Arab nation, retarding its economic, social and political development. This brake on the Arab nation forms another theme of *The Hypocrites*. The play opens with the producer coming on stage to announce that the play cannot go ahead. The actors are not ready, costumes have not been prepared, and the lighting man has gone home. The producer says that the play will be staged tomorrow, maybe.

Inefficiency

The inefficiency of bureaucrats and others who organise from desks, forms a consistent theme of the work of another leading Libyan artist, the cartoonist Muhammad az Zawawi, who has just staged a highly successful exhibition in Kuwait, sponsored by the Kuwait Arts Association. Zawawi's cartoons are frequently published in the Jamahiriya's leading daily newspaper, *Al Fajr al Jadid*, and they have become inextricably identified with the Al Fateh Revolution's persistent efforts to counter the idleness and obstructionism of bureaucrats.

Not all the work of Libyan artists and writers is so overtly political, however, and this is attested to by a short story, entitled *The Drumming Sands*, by Ibrahim al Kouni, which is included in a volume of Arabic stories just published by Quartet Books. More than ninety per cent of the territory of the Libyan Jamahiriya comprises arid desert, and until the development of the oil industry around 90 per cent of Libyans were nomadic herdsmen. The influence of the desert and of Bedouin traditions remains strong to this day. Many Libyans look back with nostalgia to the desert life, which while harsh and uncompromising was also simple, and encouraged men to take personal responsibility for their actions.

The Drumming Sands describes a desert journey by Landrover by two Libyans, set in the pre-revolutionary era. One is a city journalist who trained in Europe. The other is a student whose outlook is still profoundly influenced by the traditions of desert life. The two men lose their way and run out of petrol. They set out on foot, find the main road, but run out of water. The journalist cannot go on, but the student continues in search of a well. A police patrol rescues the journalist, but it transpires that the student went mad from thirst. He threw off his clothes and when he came across a well he was unable to make a rope from his garments to reach the water. He hurls himself into the well and drowns.

The story has a twist in the tale. The police officer who rescued the journalist and finds the student's body had a personal feud with the student. The officer had organised the brutal suppression of protest demonstrations organised by the student. It emerges that the officer had delayed his search for the dying student, in the hope that the desert would claim him.

The key message is that the desert's harsh rules are as stringent as those of life generally, and that men cannot evade the consequences of flouting them. The travellers should not have set out without enough fuel and water. In the same way, the officer argues that the student's death was only to be expected. The student had rebelled against state authority by organising political demonstrations, and in so doing had sealed his ultimate fate.

□ *Arabic Short Stories*, translated by Denys Johnson-Davies, Quartet Books, London 1983. Price £6.95.



Investment in agriculture is currently second only to manufacturing industry

UK training for telecom workers

BRITISH TELECOM'S overseas consultancy division, Teleconsult, is to train 780 Libyan telecommunications students over a seven year period, under a \$12.4 million contract awarded by the Jamahiriya's Posts and Telecommunications Department.

Teleconsult is currently supervising the installation by the Italian firm Pirelli of a \$525 million country-wide co-axial network, under a contract awarded in 1979. The scheme is due for completion next year.

Other work in Libya on which the British firm is engaged includes the maintenance of open-wire carrier systems, local line planning, and supervision of the installation of local line networks in Tripoli. Teleconsult has also just completed installation supervision of the new international telephone exchange in Benghazi, supplied by the Swedish firm Ericsson.

The Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan calls for the number of telephone lines in the country to be increased from six per hundred citizens in 1980 to ten per hundred in 1985. The plan also places special emphasis on improving Libya's international telephone links, and on training Libyan telecommunication workers.

Oil for Tanzania

TANZANIA IS to buy 70,000 tonnes of crude oil from the Jamahiriya at a cost of \$15 million to help check its current fuel shortage, Tanzanian Minister of Water

and Energy Al Noor Kassum disclosed on 16th June.

Tanzania's annual oil needs total 700,000 tonnes, in addition to 200,000-300,000 tonnes of refined products.

About sixty per cent of Tanzania's foreign exchange reserves are expended on imports of crude oil and oil products, and Middle East Economic Digest on 24th June cited unconfirmed reports that Libya and Tanzania have reached a long-term credit arrangement which will cover about thirty per cent of the east African country's oil needs.

\$100 million office complex

SOUTH KOREA'S Daewoo Corporation has won a contract worth over \$100 million for the construction of an office complex in the Libyan capital, bringing the total value of the firm's work in the Jamahiriya to about \$2 billion.

The new office complex is part of a major redevelopment scheme for Tripoli's Sok Talaat area, which will include a 2,000 seat conference centre. The original plans called for one building of two storeys and five high-rise towers of up to fifteen storeys each, to give a total floor space of 80,000 square metres. Daewoo, however, is reported to be revising some aspects of the designs.

The complex, which will house publicly-owned companies, is being financed by the Islamic Call Society, a Tripoli-based missionary organisation which is active in Africa and other parts of the Third World. Overall consultant for the scheme is the Swedish firm Jacobson & Widmark, and construction will take about three years.

298 farms in desert scheme

INVESTMENT IN agriculture is set at \$10.1 billion in the Jamahiriya's \$62.5 billion 1981-85 development plan — more than for any other sector except manufacturing industry. Plans for the expansion of agriculture emphasise development in the coastal regions, where most of the country's major towns and cities are located. Libyan planners, however, are not neglecting the vast desert regions in the south, where agriculture depends on irrigation from subterranean water reserves.

In June it was disclosed that firms have submitted construction bids for 298 farms and associated utilities and services at four sites near Murzuk, about 200 kilometres south of Sebha, in the south west of the Jamahiriya. 68 farms are planned for Gatroun, 64 at Tmessah, 88 at Majdoul and 60 at Nsawa. Work will reportedly be undertaken at each of these areas in turn.

The scheme includes the construction of irrigation and covered drainage networks, roads, electricity supply, water and sewerage networks, housing and service centres, and the erection of wind-breaks.

Irrigation in Libya's coastal agricultural development schemes will also involve water from the south, which will be pumped from wells in the Sarir and Tazerbo regions, south of Benghazi, along a major pipeline to the coast.

The Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation Secretariat has set up specialised committees for the development of the coastal zones, and on 20th June the Jamahiriya news agency JANA announced that the committees were carrying

out field surveys of agricultural holdings to determine the optimum size for farms. JANA said that the survey teams were working in conjunction with Tripoli Municipality, and that by the end of March they had surveyed 9,127 hectares.

Electric pumps from Italy

THE JAMAHIRIYA'S General Company for Farm Equipment has placed an order with the Italian firm Ansaldo Motori for 5,000 electric pumps, valued at \$2.6 million. The pumps are from the Acquafit-T series, and can be used for water containing sand. The consignment is due for delivery by the end of September.

Australian success in agriculture

THE FARM machinery manufacturer Chamberlain John Deere last year supplied hundreds of disc harrows and scarifiers for distribution to Libyan farmers, joining a series of Australian firms which have sharply boosted their links with the Jamahiriya, the British journal *Middle East Agribusiness* has disclosed.

A key factor in the success of Australian concerns has been the similarity of agricultural conditions in Australia and Libya. Technology developed in Australia can readily be applied in the Jamahiriya.

Since 1974 the Government of Western Australia has been involved in a cereal-growing pro-



Cultivation of wheat plays an important part in the Jamahiriya's agricultural projects

ject in the Jebel Akhdar region of north east Libya, and in 1980 it started work on a scheme to develop pastures in semi-arid parts of the Jamahiriya. Recently, the Western Australia Overseas Projects Authority (WAOPA) was awarded a UN Food and Agriculture Organisation contract for a water resources study aimed at developing agriculture in the Sirte region, along the coast, and in the central wadi zone. Two Australian water specialists spent six weeks in the Jamahiriya working on the study.

Last year the Australian firm Connor Shea & Co completed delivery of 970 multi-purpose grain and fertiliser drills, valued at \$4.9 million. It was believed to be the largest single order for agricultural equipment ever placed in Australia by an Arab country. The implements were shipped in completely knocked-down form for local assembly, and are being used to sow wheat in the Benghazi area. Two Connor Shea engineers are based in the Jamahiriya to give after-sales service and advice.

It was announced in September that the Western Australian firm of Kimber Seeds had an order for two pitter seeders, valued at \$29,000. The seeders are suitable for sowing arid land seed mixes in desert reclamation projects.

Australia has also become an important supplier of live animals. Last year the Siba Australia Company won a contract to supply 700,000 live sheep to help meet the growing demand for mutton in Libya. In February last year *Newsweek* magazine disclosed that Tripoli was negotiating to buy 700 camels from Australia for breeding and meat.

The Jamahiriya's expanding links with Australia were recently stressed by Mr Suleiman al Oreibi, Secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Canberra, who told the

Sydney *Daily Commercial News* that Libya was planning to treble its imports from Western Australia, and to send up to one hundred students there each year for training. The paper noted that at present Tripoli imports agricultural machinery, pasture seed and live animals valued at \$64 million per year.

'Satisfactory growth' for Aresbank

THE PERFORMANCE of the Banco Arabe Espanol (Aresbank) last year has been described by the Madrid-based institution as 'most satisfactory', with net income after tax of \$12.4 million, a 45.6 per cent rise on 1981.

As a result of this expansion, the bank's shareholders, which comprise the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank (30 per cent), the Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Company (30 per cent) and various Spanish financial institutions (40 per cent) decided at their Annual General Meeting in Madrid on 26th May to double the bank's capital to \$77 million, a move which should encourage further expansion.

Focus on Arab lead and copper mining

THE PROSPECTS for joint Arab development of lead and copper mining in the region were under review at a special symposium convened in Amman on 6th June at the headquarters of the Arab Mining

Company (AMC), which links the Libyan Jamahiriya and five other Arab countries. All aspects of the question were examined, including methods of financing and developing new mines.

Two days before the start of the seminar, the Board of Directors of the AMC held a routine meeting to review the progress of the company's projects, which are located in several Arab countries, and to explore the potential for establishing new ventures.

Trade with Yugoslavia boosted

THE JAMAHIRIYA and Yugoslavia have agreed to raise the total value of their trade to \$300 million this year, up \$100 million on last year's figure. The accord was signed in Belgrade on 29th May, at the end of a visit to the Yugoslav capital by Libyan Planning Secretary Fawzi Shakshuki, and covers co-operation in agriculture, construction, oil, industry and banking.

The Yugoslavian news agency Tanjug said that Yugoslavian firms have won contracts in Libya totalling \$2.2 billion, and that the Jamahiriya had displaced Iraq as Belgrade's most important trading partner in the Third World.

Amongst the Yugoslavian firms working in Libya are Skopje-based Mavrovo, which has a \$24 million order in Misrata and a \$10 million contract in Benghazi; Beton, which is involved in the construction of schools, health centres and other public buildings in Misrata; and Energoprojekt, which is building a naval academy and agricultural development schemes.

Sarajevo-based Energoinvest has a twenty per cent stake in a joint company set up with the Jamahiriya to manage the planned aluminium smelting complex at Zuwara, on the coast west of Tripoli.

Statistics released last year showed that there were 12,707 Yugoslavians working in the Jamahiriya.

Relations between Tripoli and Belgrade have traditionally been close, reflecting the two countries' common commitment to policies of non-alignment between the world's super-powers. Yugoslavia was the first country visited by Muammer Qadhafi following the Al Fateh Revolution on 1st September 1969.

Denmark to manage concrete plant

DEMAND FOR cement and concrete construction materials has rocketed in Libya in response to the country's ambitious economic and social development programmes. In a bid to cut down on imports, thereby saving foreign exchange and increasing Libya's overall level of economic independence, a series of cement factories and concrete products plants have been established.

In June it was announced that the Danish firm of Tomas Schmidt has had its contract renewed for the management of a major factory in Tripoli producing concrete building elements, including walls, parapets, balconies and slabs for local housing schemes. The factory was built in 1974 by another Danish firm, Hojgaard & Schultz.

The plant was managed for the first five years by Hojgaard & Schultz which, with the Italian firm of Recche, had by 1981 also built 3,250 apartments. Tomas Schmidt took over the plant's management in 1981.

Korean silk for textile mills

THE JAMAHIRIYA last year ordered \$6.6 million worth of silk yarn from two South Korean firms, the Seoul weekly *Korean-newsreview* has disclosed. The orders, which reflect the growing importance of Libya's textile industries, totalled 94,830 kilos, and were placed with Dong A Silk Company and Dainong Company. The journal added that in the first four months of this year two firms shipped to Libya 22,000 kilos of yarn valued at \$1 million.

International

□ **21st June:** Maltese Foreign Minister Alex Sceberras Trigona arrives in Tripoli for talks with Libyan officials.

□ **24th June:** It is disclosed that three French construction workers detained in Tripoli since January have been released on bail. One has returned to France, and the others will remain in the Jamahiriya until their trial. The three were arrested in mid-January on espionage charges.

□ **27th June:** Iran and Libya conclude a civil aviation training agreement, under which Iran will send instructors to the Jamahiriya, and will also provide maintenance courses for Libyan students.

□ **27th June:** Muammer Qadhafi receives a personal letter from Iranian leader Imam Khomeini, replying to a recent letter from the Libyan revolutionary leader. Imam Khomeini stressed the warm ties between the peoples of Libya and Iran, and reiterated Iran's determination to resist Iraqi aggression.

□ **28th June:** Muammer Qadhafi receives Mr John Bminjara, the personal envoy of President Ratsiraka of Madagascar. The envoy passed on a letter from his President, stressing the satisfactory level of bilateral relations with the Jamahiriya, and pointing to the dangers posed by foreign intervention in the African continent.

□ **29th June:** Tanzanian Minister for Water and Energy Ndugu al Noor Kassum discloses that a 75,000-tonne shipment of crude oil from Libya has arrived in the country.

□ **3rd July:** Chadian workers living in Benghazi stage a mass demonstration protesting against intervention in Chadian affairs by the United States and its regional surrogate regimes.

□ **3rd July:** The Jamahiriya news agency JANA discloses that Staff Major Abdelsalam Jalloud has held a meeting with Libyan military cadets training overseas.

□ **8th July:** A special envoy of Indian Premier Indira Gandhi arrives in the Jamahiriya for talks with Libyan officials.

Arab Homeland

□ **14th June:** Mr Abdel al Ghani Abd al Qadir, member of the Political Bureau of Democratic Yemen's Socialist Party and the party's Secretary for Foreign Relations, leaves the Jamahiriya after holding a series of talks with Libyan officials.

□ **25th June:** In a telephone conversation, Muammer Qadhafi and Syrian President Hafiz al Assad review the current situation in the Arab region.

□ **27th June:** Revolutionary leader Muammer Qadhafi confers in Tripoli with Mr Ahmad Guedira, the personal envoy of Moroccan King Hassan.

□ **1st July:** Aden radio reports the return from Tripoli of Yemen Foreign Minister, Dr Abdel Aziz al Dali. During his visit to the Jamahiriya, he held talks with Libyan officials on bilateral relations, and Arab and international affairs.

□ **2nd July:** The Jamahiriya news agency JANA firmly rejects a report in the East Jerusalem Arabic daily *Al Fajr* alleging that the Jamahiriya has ordered 12,000 Palestinians in Libya to leave the country by 12th July.

□ **4th July:** Muammer Qadhafi confers by telephone with Syrian President Hafiz al Assad. At the centre of the discussion were recent developments in the Arab homeland, and particularly the Zionist occupation of Lebanon.

Jamahiriya

□ **2nd July:** The Jamahiriya's General People's Committee for Sports holds its second annual meeting in Tripoli. Topics discussed included the lists of sports competitions in Libya, and a memorandum relating to sports activities in schools.

□ **15th July:** New regulations are reported under which any goods not declared to customs authorities within seven days of arrival will either

by auctioned, or transferred to a bonded warehouse for two months on the approval of the Director General of Customs.

Economy and Development

□ **17th June:** The London weekly *Middle East Economic Digest* discloses that the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank, which handles all the Jamahiriya's overseas direct banking investments, recorded assets last year of \$2,491 billion, up from \$2,195 billion in 1981. Gross profits, however, fell in the 1981-82 period from \$92 million to \$60 million.

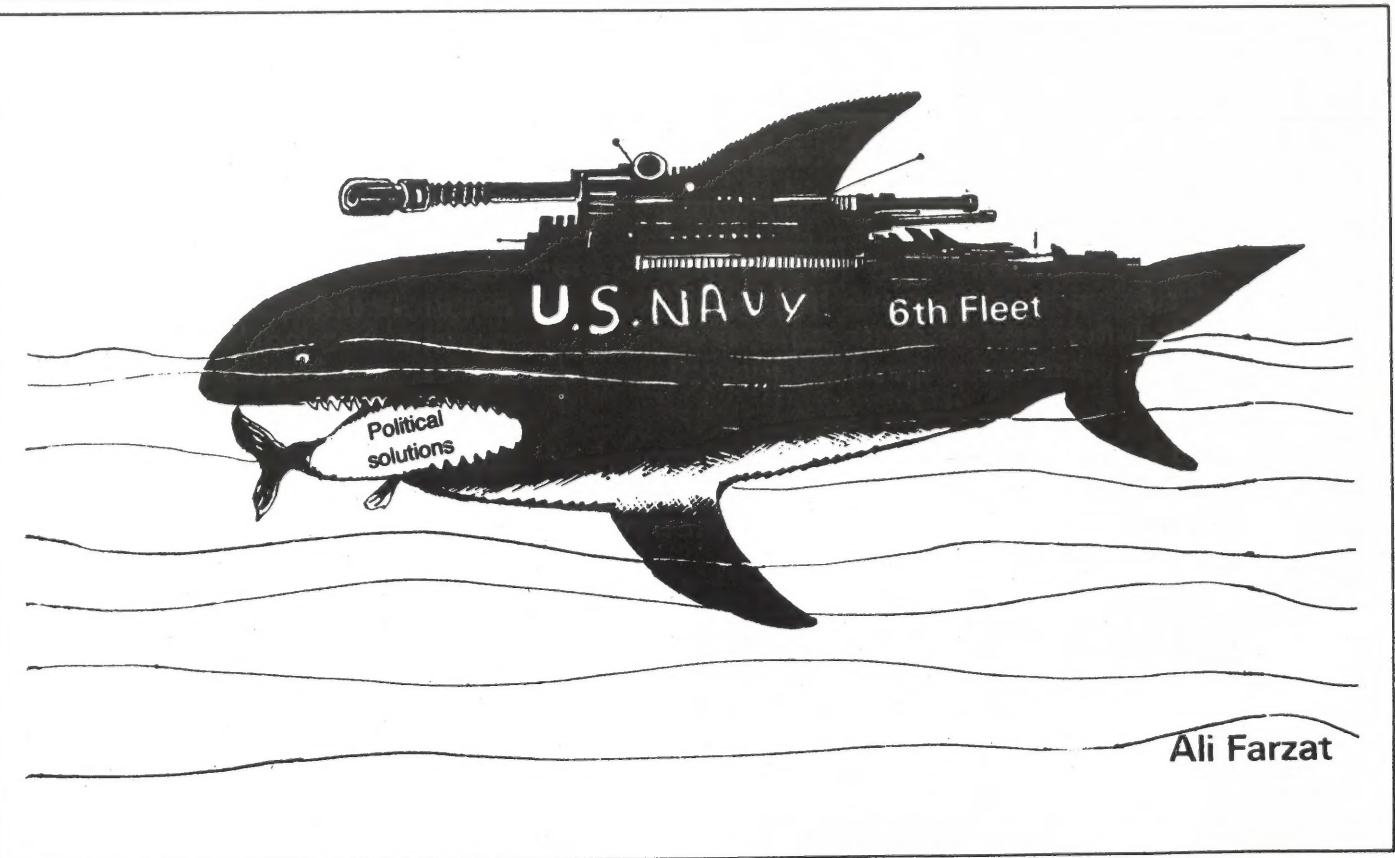
□ **24th June:** The Tunisian news agency announces that the Spanish airline Iberia will soon start twice weekly flights between Madrid and Tripoli.

□ **1st July:** It is announced that the tender closing date for the Benghazi North power station and desalination plant extension has been put back by three months to 18th October.

□ **8th July:** It is disclosed that the Ras Lanouf Oil & Gas Processing Company has dropped plans to build a low density polyethylene plant as part of the second phase of the petrochemicals complex under construction at Ras Lanouf, on the coast 400 miles south west of Benghazi.

□ **8th July:** *Middle East Economic Digest* reveals that Greece is to import 400,000 tonnes of crude oil from the Jamahiriya in the next twelve years, and has the option to double that amount. Some of the oil may be paid for in goods and services.

□ **15th July:** It is disclosed that the Jamahiriya's crude oil output in the second quarter averaged 1.11 million barrels per day — 1.12 million b/d in April, 1.13 million b/d in May and 1.08 million b/d in June. These figures are in line with the production quota set for Libya by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).



Ali Farzat

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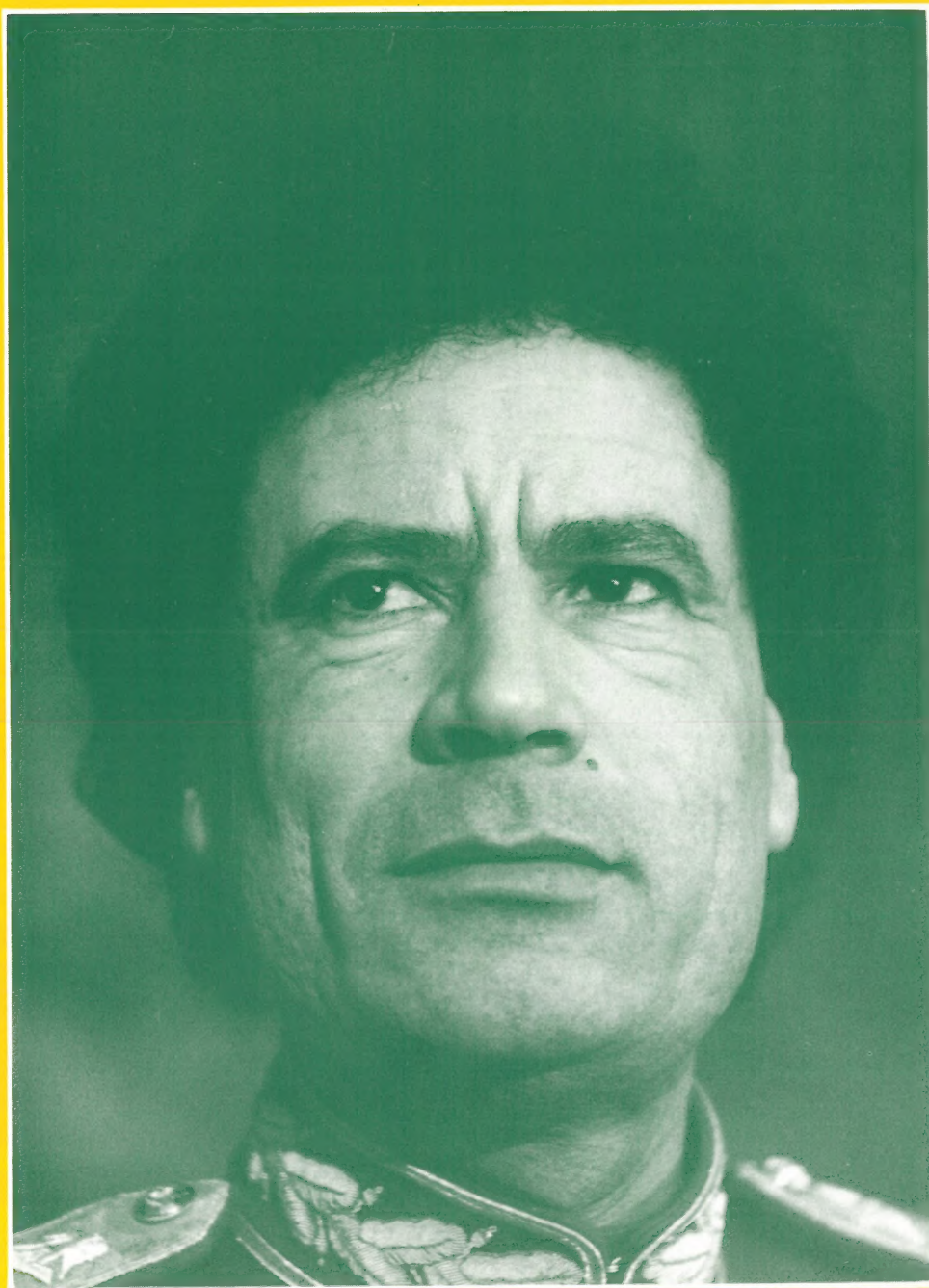
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